

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Sept. 16, 2011

CONTACT: Jeff Mammenga, Media Coordinator, (605) 773-6000,
Jeff.Mammenga@state.sd.us

State Historical Society book examines Populism in South Dakota

PIERRE, S.D.—A new book from the South Dakota State Historical Society delves into the Populist movement of the 1890s. The movement was one of the most successful third-party initiatives in United States history and played a significant role in forming South Dakota's political legacy.

In *Principle over Party: The Farmers' Alliance and Populism in South Dakota, 1880–1900*, author R. Alton Lee, professor emeritus of history at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion, shines a light on the prominent South Dakotans who strode down the path to the progressive agrarian politics that dominated the state, and much of the country, in the late 1880s and early 1900s. He examines the causes that led South Dakota farmers to rise up against the establishment and take their fate into their own hands.

Populism had a strong base in South Dakota, and although the Populists never elected a president, they did seat governors, congressmen and United States senators. Additionally, South Dakota's Populists helped introduce secret ballots and the Initiative and Referendum, which allows voters to have a direct say in government.

Principle over Party is available for \$32.95 (plus shipping and tax where applicable) and can be purchased from most bookstores or ordered directly from the South Dakota State Historical Society Press. For more information, visit www.sdshspress.com or call (605) 773-6009.

-30-

The South Dakota State Historical Society is a division of the Department of Tourism. The Department of Tourism is comprised of Tourism, the South Dakota Arts Council, and the State Historical Society. The Department is led by Secretary James D. Hagen. The State Historical Society is headquartered at the South Dakota Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre. The center houses the society's world-class museum, the archives, and the historic preservation, publishing and administrative/development offices. Call (605) 773-3458 or visit www.history.sd.gov for more information. The society also has an archaeology office in Rapid City; call (605) 394-1936 for more information.